

Left Breathless

by FictionChic

Category: Twilight

Genre: Hurt-Comfort, Romance

Language: English

Characters: Leah, OC, Paul, Seth

Pairings: Paul/OC

Status: In-Progress

Published: 2016-04-13 01:58:53

Updated: 2016-04-19 00:20:12

Packaged: 2016-04-27 18:59:42

Rating: T

Chapters: 2

Words: 8,255

Publisher: [www.fanfiction.net](http://www.fanfiction.net)

Summary: Elizabeth Clearwater enjoys photography, taking care of her father, and spending time with her siblingsâ€”especially Leah, but when tragedy strikes, and Elizabeth's siblings suddenly start hanging around Sam's Gang, she really isn't sure what to do anymore or if she'll every be okay again.

## 1. Unrealistic Promise

The Clearwater house was a welcoming place with its ranch style and wooden porch that ran along the front of the house. Pots of different kinds of flowers lined the stairs, the house itself a soft white color.

The kitchen was small, but always in use and Sue Clearwater stood at the stove, cutting up fruit while scrambling eggs. She enjoyed making breakfast for her family and mornings with her family always served to be entertaining. She looked up at the sound of a loud yawn and smiled at her youngest child, "Good morning, Seth. Good morning, Leah."

"Morning," Seth smiled lazily, chipper as ever and kissed his mother on the cheek, "Morning, dad."

Harry Clearwater placed the newspaper down and smiled, "Morning, son. Did you sleep all right?"

Seth yawned, but nodded, "Uh-huh."

"If his obnoxious snoring has anything to say about it," Leah grumbled, rubbing the sleep out of her eyes. She never was a morning person and had been extremely grouchy lately, "I'm going to end up smothering him in his sleep."

"I don't snore!" Seth said defensively.

Leah scoffed, folding her arms across her chest, "You sound like a garbage truck."

"Honey, you get that from your father," Sue laughed, "For the first few years of our marriage, I had to sleep with earplugs."

"Ah, yes," Harry nodded in remembrance, "It took me forever to get you up in the mornings."

Sue laughed again and shook her head, running her hand through her short black hair. She walked from behind the counter and made her way over to the round table, placing a bowl of fruit in front of her husband, "Leah, where's your sister?"

"In our room would be my guess," Leah mumbled, huffing as she took a seat.

Sue rolled her eyes, "Seth?"

"Still sleeping," Seth answered, "I think she went to bed pretty late last night."

Harry sighed dramatically, wrinkling his nose at the piece of pineapple he had stabbed with his fork, "Maybe she can convince your dear mother to quit trying to turn me into a rabbit."

Sue shook her head, fighting off a smirk as she flipped an omelet onto a plate, "Someone just please wake Elizabeth up while I finish cooking breakfast."

"I'll get her," Leah grumbled, stomping out of the room.

A few seconds later, a loud crash and a thump came from down the hall.

"HEY!" a silvery voice shouted.

Harry sighed in contentment as the noise level only increased and stuck a piece of fruit in his mouth, "I love my family."

"Girls come eat," Sue called, handing Seth a pitcher of orange juice to put on the table, "Breakfast is ready!"

Leah came back to the kitchen, followed by a girl who was only sixteen and stood at 5'6. She had perfect copper skin much like her older sister Leah, kind and warm brown eyes, and her usual sleek straight waist-length black hair was frizzy, her convertible bangs sticking up in every direction.

"Good morning, sunshine," Harry greeted with a warm smile.

"Sit down, Elizabeth," Sue kissed her middle child on the head, "Breakfast is ready."

Elizabeth yawned, stretching her arms over her head, "Morning, mom, daddy, Seth."

"Morning," Seth grinned, "Mom made omelets."

"Yum," Elizabeth mumbled, sitting between her brother and father. Her tired eyes immediately brightened when she saw what the latter was eating and she gasped, "Daddy, you're eating fruit!"

"Rather reluctantly, I have to admit," Harry smiled.

"It's good for you," Elizabeth promised, "Ooh, cantaloupe!" she took a piece from Harry's fruit bowl, "My favorite!"

"Speaking of health," Sue placed a blue MDI and a matching spacer on the table, giving her daughter a knowing look, "Two puffs. \_Now\_."

"Ugh, mom," Elizabeth groaned, smoothing her bangs back.

"I don't want to hear it, young lady," Sue said firmly. She took a seat and shook the inhaler before she placed it into the spacer, "Before you eat."

"Come on, Beth," Seth nudged his older sister, his eyes pleading, "Please?"

Elizabeth scrunched up her nose at the nickname, but accepted defeat. She breathed out and then picked up the spacer, putting it between her teeth. She closed her lips around it and pressed down the top of her inhaler, breathing in as slowly as possible.

"Ten seconds," Leah reminded when Elizabeth pulled the spacer away.

Elizabeth nodded, looking at Leah while she held her breath.

After ten seconds, Leah nodded, "Done."

Elizabeth breathed out slowly and she closed her eyes for a moment, her cheeks flushed, "I hate that part," she rasped.

"Hurry up," Leah urged just as Sue opened her mouth, "Your breakfast is getting cold."

Elizabeth nodded in agreement and placed the spacer to her mouth once more. She and Leah almost got along perfectly. Leah was her best friend and although the mothering sometimes got on her nerves, Elizabeth couldn't ask for a better sister.

"And you have your rescue inhaler?" Harry asked.

"Mhm," Elizabeth nodded, her breath held. She breathed out, "Oh, wait. No, it's on my dresser."

"You need to remember to keep it with you," Harry scolded.

"Yes, Sir," Elizabeth mumbled, yawning. She placed her inhaler aside and tucked into her breakfast. She was starving.

"Beth, did you finish your math homework?" Seth asked, "I couldn't figure it out."

"Yeah, I'll help," Elizabeth promised, after swallowing. She cut off a piece of her omelet, "Even though I was absolutely horrendous at

Algebra last year."

"Great," Seth smiled sheepishly, "Thanks, Beth."

"Absolutely horrendous," Leah repeated, wrinkling her nose, "Who the hell talks like that?"

"Someone who has books as friends rather than people," Seth snickered.

"Ahahaha," Elizabeth rolled her eyes, "But I-

She was cut off when the phone began to ring. She stood up, "I'll get it."

"If that's Bella Swan again, I swear..." Leah shook her head, clutching her fork a little too tightly.

"I still haven't gotten the opportunity to meet her," Elizabeth complained. rushing over to get the phone.

"You don't want to meet her," Leah called, narrowing her eyes when Sue shushed her.

"Hello? Clearwater residence," Elizabeth answered politely. She stuck her tongue out when Leah rolled her eyes.

"Hello?" came the voice from the other end, "This is Bella Swan."

"Hi, Bella," Elizabeth greeted, "This is Elizabeth Clearwater. How are you?"

"Oh," Bella sounded genuinely surprised, "I'm good. It's nice to finally talk to you. Jake's told me all about you."

Elizabeth drew her eyebrows together, "Has he? Good things I hope?"

"Yeah," Bella laughed awkwardly, "Yeah, good things. Um, you wouldn't happen to know where he is do you? I've called his house, but he didn't answer."

Elizabeth looked up at the ceiling as she tried to recall, "Jake? Um, I don't know where he is. He was sick with mono for awhile, but maybe he-

A hand on her shoulder caused her to jump and she turned to see her father holding out his hand, "Hold on Bella," she placed the phone receiver to her shoulder and frowned, "Dad, what's wrong?"

Harry looked annoyed, "Give me the phone, sweetheart."

She exhaled softly, but did as she was told, stepping aside when he gave her a gentle nudge towards the table.

"Finish your breakfast," he murmured to her.

She nodded and returned to the table.

"That chick just doesn't know boundaries," Leah huffed, stabbing her omelet.

"Why do you hate her so much?" Seth asked, "I met her and I thought she was nice."

"She's just using Jake," Leah told him matter-of-factly, "Everyone knows it. She's only hanging out with him because her stupid boyfriend dumped her sorry ass."

"Leah," Sue said firmly, "Language, please. Goodness, how many times do I have to tell you?"

"I'm not a child anymore," Leah slammed her hands on the table, "I'm almost twenty years old and you can't tell me what to do!"

Sue's eyes widened, surprised by the sudden outburst. When she spoke, her tone remained calm, "You don't act like you're almost twenty and as long as you are living under my roof you will do as I say. I really don't appreciate this new attitude of yours. I suggest you change it."

"Leah," Elizabeth mumbled, placing a hand on her older sister's arm, "Hey, what's wrong?"

Seeing the concerned look of her little sister, Leah instantly relaxed and she pursed her lips. She stood up, almost knocking over her chair in the process, "I'm done with breakfast. I have to pick something up in Port Angeles."

"Leah!" Sue called. She took a deep breath and ran a hand over her face, knowing it was better to let her eldest daughter blow off some steam. She turned to her two younger children, "I guess that's it for breakfast, huh? What are you two going to do, today?"

"I don't know," Elizabeth answered, shrugging. She brought her plate to the sink, "Read, I suppose."

"Why don't you two head down to the beach?" Harry suggested, returning to the table to resume picking at his fruit.

"That took awhile," Elizabeth commented, jerking her head towards the phone, "Is Bella all right?"

"She's fine, I was talking to Charlie," Harry told her, handing her a few empty glasses, "He was filling me in on last night's game."

"That...doesn't sound interesting," Beth responded in a mumble. She giggled, "Sorry, I'm just not into sports, I suppose."

Feeling ignored, Seth hurriedly spoke up, his young face bright, "Dad, you mentioned the beach? Mom, can we?"

"That sounds nice. It's not supposed to rain," Sue said, helping her daughter clear away the dishes, "You can go with him, Elizabeth. You can take some pictures. It's been awhile since you've done that, hasn't it?"

Elizabeth bit her lip at the thought of leaving the house. It had

been a little over a month, since she had overheard her father's phone conversation about how he had gone to the doctor complaining about chest pain and other symptoms and therefore had to go through numerous testing. His heart was weak.

Since then, she had done her best to take care of her father. She helped her mother cook dinner, cleaned up, got the newspaper, reminded him to eat healthy, and had even taken to dumping out his beer on occasion. Besides her siblings, Harry was easily her favorite person. They had always had a really close relationship and even the mere thought of losing her father brought tears to her eyes.

She shook her head frantically, blinking back the tears that threatened to overflow, "N-no. I'm staying here."

"Come on, Beth," Seth whined, "Come on. Please?"

"I said no!" Elizabeth snapped, "You're so irritating."

"Elizabeth," Sue gasped. It wasn't like her daughter to call her brother names.

Elizabeth's shoulders slumped and she exhaled softly, looking over at her brother, "I'm really sorry, Seth. You're not irritating. It's just...Leah literally rolled me out of bed and I'm still tired. She pulled the blankets from under me."

"S'okay," Seth grinned and then laughed, "I'm going to shower. Will you at least think about going to the beach? Please?"

"Mhm," Elizabeth nodded, "Yeah, of course."

"Help me finish the dishes first," Sue called.

"K," Seth rolled his eyes, but complied, beginning to place the dishes in the dishwasher.

"Come here, Zizi," Harry placed his hand on his daughter's shoulder, using her childhood nickname, "Come outside with me for a minute."

"Okay," Elizabeth nodded and smoothed out her plaid flannel pajama pants before she followed her father out to the front steps. It was overcast, but not raining. She shivered and wrapped her arms around herself, grateful that she had gone to bed wearing long-sleeves, "What is it, daddy?"

"Sit down," Harry said gently, taking a seat himself, "I wanted to speak with you."

"Aboutâ€¦?" it was a tight squeeze, but Elizabeth was able to sit next to him, "What's wrong?"

Harry wrapped an arm around her and sighed, "Raising three children, I'd like to think my senses have improved greatly."

Elizabeth's eyebrows drew together in confusion, her eyes darting to the side and back, "O-okay?"

Harry gave her a knowing look, his smile sad, "Which means I know

when one of my children is behind the wall listening to one of my phone conversations with Charlie Swan."

She could feel heat spread up her neck and she bit her lip, "Oh...I'm not sure what to say to that. I mean, I'm sorry for eavesdropping. I was just really worried."

"I know," Harry mumbled, squeezing her shoulder, "But, you are far too young to be a parent, my-

"Dad," she interrupted with a groan, burrowing her face in her hands, "Stop! I had this talk with mom already!"

Harry laughed and shook his head, "No, Zizi. I'm saying that you don't need to be concerned about me. It's my job to take care of you. Not the other way around. While I appreciate everything you've done, I can take care of myself."

Elizabeth lifted her head, her eyes sad, "But, daddy, you're heart-

"Is fine," he said quietly, "\_I'm\_ fine. Okay?"

She shook her head, unconvinced. If he was fine, then he wouldn't have had to do all that testing. And if he was fine, she wouldn't constantly see him wince or breath out shakily when his heart palpitated.

"I promise," he said more firmly, "I promise, I'll be okay. Let's make a deal, hmm?"

Elizabeth flicked her eyebrows up, narrowing her eyes in skepticism, "What kind of deal?"

"If you take your inhaler everyday, twice a day like you're \_supposed\_ toâ€"I'll let your mother turn me into a rabbit," Harry grinned, "We'll be healthy together, okay?"

Elizabeth forced a laughed and nodded her head, "Okay. Deal."

"Thank you, sweetheart," Harry pressed his lips to her forehead, rubbing his hand up and down her arm, "Now, go to the beach with your brother."

"Y'sure you'll be okay?" Elizabeth asked, biting her lip.

"Yes," Harry grabbed onto the railing and pulled himself up with a moan, "Ugh, maybe not. I'm getting old."

"You're not old," Elizabeth rolled her eyes playfully and stood up with grace, following Harry back into the house, "Seth, did you leave hot water?"

"Are you coming?" Seth asked hopefully, poking his head into the living room. His hair was freshly washed and he wasn't wearing a shirt. He waited for Beth to nod before he grinned, "Yeah, there's hot water."

"Okay," Elizabeth relented, "Just let me shower real quick and I'll get my camera."

"Great!" Seth beamed at her.

Elizabeth skipped to the room that she and Leah shared and hurriedly picked out her clothes. Even if it wasn't raining, it was probably still coldâ€"even more so at the beach. She settled for a pair of thick black leggings and an olive green sweatshirt.

She closed and locked the door to the bathroom, cranking on the shower and stepping in when the water had warmed up to her liking. She sighed in pleasure and tossed her head back as the water relaxed her muscles. If she wanted, she could have stayed in the shower for hours, but she knew her little brother would become impatient the longer she took to get ready.

When she was finished, she hurried through her morning routine and dressed, leaving her long hair down to air dry.

"Ready, Seth?" she called, heading back to the bedroom. She looped her Canon SD700 camera around her neck and shoved her feet into her shoes, "Seth?" she asked, walking into the living room, "Ready?"

"Yeah," Seth nodded, "Bye mom, dad."

"Be home before dinner, please," Sue told them, "Look out for each other and have fun. I love you both."

"Love you too, mom," they said in unison.

"Zizi, you have your rescue inhaler?" Harry asked, arching an eyebrow.

"Yes," Elizabeth insisted. She reached into her sweatshirt pocket and held it up, "See?"

"Okay," Harry grinned and winked, "Have fun, then."

"Thanks, daddy," Elizabeth kissed his cheek before she wiggled her fingers, "We won't be gone too long."

\* \* \*

><p>"I got some really great pictures," Elizabeth breathed, holding up her camera. She stepped over a rock, her face flushed and a wide grin on her face, "I can't believe it."<p>

"I can," Seth shoved her shoulder playfully, "You're a great photographer. But if you don't calm down, you're going to give yourself an asthma attack."

Elizabeth did her best to calm down as they walked up the beach, "I can't wait to print them out! I got some great shots of you."

Seth snickered, "Do I look hot?"

Elizabeth snorted and rolled her eyes, "Yeah, of course."

Seth laughed, but then his face suddenly turned serious, "Hey, can I ask you something?"



"I guess," Elizabeth shrugged.

"What did dad say to you this morning?" Seth asked, "When you guys went outside?"

"Hounding me about my inhaler," Elizabeth mumbled. Technically, it wasn't a lie, "That I need to be more responsible about it."

"Oh," Seth nodded, clearly relieved, "So, it wasn't anything bad? I mean, about him?"

"No," Elizabeth shook her head, "Nah, dad's fine."

"Breathe," Seth reminded, hearing her breath hitch slightly. He frowned and faltered in his steps, "Beth-

"I'm fine, Seth," Elizabeth promised, although she looked to be struggling, "Everything's fine. Let's just get home, okay? Mom's probably got dinner started."

Seth's attention was immediately diverted at the mention of food, "I'm starving!" he moaned, "What do you think she made?"

"Lasagna, maybe?" she suggested. She shrugged, "I don't know, but I saw lasagna noodles on the counter before we left."

"I love mom's lasagna," Seth sighed dreamily.

"You love anything edible," Elizabeth teased, "You practically think with your stomach. Last week, you and Lee almost ate a whole large pizza."

"After you ate six slices," Seth countered.

Elizabeth blushed and remained silent.

Seth inhaled deeply as they neared the house, "Mmm, I can smell it from it here."

"Mom, we're-

"\_It's none of your damn business\_," a keen shout came from the living room, cutting Elizabeth off.

"Oh no," Elizabeth groaned, hurrying up the steps, "Not again."

"Dad?" Seth questioned worriedly, looking over at Leah and his mother, "Are they fighting again?"

"Leah's at that age, son," Harry said soothingly, he wrapped his arm around Elizabeth's shoulder.

"I'm getting really sick of these mood swings, Leah," Sue snapped.

"Well, I'm getting sick of everything!" Leah shouted, angry tears spilling over.

It wasn't often that her eldest daughter cried and seeing the tears caused Sue's own eyes to become glassy, "Sweetheart. I know you've been having a really hard time since Sam-

"This has nothing to do with Sam!" Leah screeched, stamping her foot. Her hands were shaking and clenched into fists by her sides, "How dare you!"

Everything happened really quickly then.

Leah's whole body was trembling. So violently that she fell to the floor. An animalistic noise erupted from her throat, her clothes ripping into pieces and flying all over the room. She exploded...literally exploded, a smallish grey wolf replacing her human-self.

Elizabeth screamed, a hand going to her mouth when the wolf lurched forward, tearing the couch to pieces with its large claws and wide jaw. The snarls coming from it made Elizabeth want to cover her ears.

"...L-Leah?" Seth gasped, his face a deadly white, he stumbled backward, "M-mom?"

"Honey, it's all right," Sue said soothingly. Both to him and the wolf. She was the picture of calm, her eyes never wavering, "It's oka-

"Daddy!" Elizabeth cried suddenly, feeling the arm slip from around her shoulders. She failed to catch him as he collapsed to the ground and fell with him, a loud sob escaping her lips, "What's happening!?"

Harry lay on the ground, a hand clutched to his chest and a thin sheen of sweat breaking out on his face. His breathing was short and ragged, his eyes squeezed shut in pain.

Another loud ripping sound filled the air and Elizabeth whipped her head around, afraid her eyes were pop out of her head with how wide they were. A tall and gangly wolf with sandy colored fur and oversized paws stood where her little brother once was.

She screamed again, tears blurring her vision as Sue began to speak. What the hell was happening? Her family was falling apart.

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><p>Emily Young hummed to herself, placing a large plate of muffins on the middle of her white table, "There. Eat up, but save some for your brothers. They should be done with patrol soon."<p>

"Whatever happened to first come first served?" Jared Cameron asked, his brown eyes glinting mischievously. He grabbed a muffin and took a large bite.

"I'd have to agree," Paul Lahote laughed, clapping Jared on the back. He shoved a muffin into his mouth, "God, these are good."

Sam Uley rolled his eyes, wrapping his arm around Emily's waist. He waited for the others to serve themselves, before he reached over to

take a muffin, taking a small bite instead of shoving it into his mouth whole; like his pack brothers.

"I mean it. Luckily, there's another batch in the ove-" Emily cut herself off when the phone rang, "Hold on."

She grabbed the device from the receiver and pressed the phone to her ear, "Hello?"

A loud howl caused everyone in the small house to jump, their heads turning to face the door.

Embry Call stood, a deep frown on his face. His eyes narrowed in concentration and looked at Sam, "Someone from the pack?"

Sam shook his head, his jaw clenched, "No. Someone new phased."

"What?" Jared cried. He scoffed, "No, that's not possible. There's no one else left."

"Oh my God," Emily cried, pressing a hand to her mouth, "Sam!"

Sam was by her side in an instant, placing his hands on her shoulders to keep her steady, "Emily?"

"Yes, yes, of course," Emily spoke into the phone and choked on a sob. She swallowed thickly, "Yes, I'll tell them. Okay, bye."

"What happened?" Jared demanded.

"That was Sue," Emily breathed out shakily. She shook her head, "Leah and Seth phased and Harry had a heart attack."

"\_Leah\_!?" Paul cried disbelievingly, "Leah Clearwater!?"

"She and Sue were fighting," Emily trembled, wiping at her eyes, "And she just goâ€"Leah and Seth are somewhere out there. Sue had to take H-Harry. Sh-she-

"Shhh," Sam hushed her gently and rubbed her back, "It's going to be okay."

"What about Beth?" Jared asked, "Did sheâ€"?"

"She got scared and ran off," Emily said, "Sue wants to look for her, but sheâ€"Beth's asthma..."

"Paul, Embry, I want you two to go help Leah and Seth," Sam commanded, "See if you can get them to calm down and phase back. Jared, you need to start looking for Zizi. I'll go find Quil and Jacob. Quil will join up with Paul, and I'll send Jake to help look for Zizi, and then we'll meet up at the hospital. Sue needs us."

"I'll go there now," Emily sniffled, wiping her eyes. She shut off the oven.

"I don't get it," Embry mumbled, "Why didn't Beth phase?"

"That doesn't matter," Sam waved him off as he jogged outside, the others right behind him, "Let's be glad she didn't. Right now, we need to focus on what's happened. Get moving, everyone."

\* \* \*

><p><strong>I'm SO excited to start this as I've been wanting to write an Imprint story for a quite some time. Also, I had to republish because of a glitch and shoutout to my FABULOUS Beta Reader Sabrina06!<strong>

**\*\*Let me know what you think,\*\***

**\*\*xx FictionChic\*\***

## 2. After

The sun was setting quickly on the La Push reservation, bathing the woods in darkness and silver moonlight. It was silent except for the occasional squirrel that darted across the moist ground in search of food.

Two large wolves prowled. One with chocolate brown fur, lighter on the face and the other had short, but thick dark brown fur, the dark gray around his eyes almost resembling a mask.

\_'Leave it to Jake to screw everything up,'\_ Jared growled in obvious annoyance, '\_I forgot, the leech-lover comes before the pack, now. Before \_\_\*\*family\*\*\_\_.'\_

Quil didn't respond. He was supposed to be helping out with Leah and Seth, but with no answer from Jacob, Sam had sent Quil to help Jared look for Elizabeth, instead. He didn't mind, really, but it did bother him a little bit that Jake was a no show. The pack really needed him and Sam would definitely chew out the rightful Alpha later.

\_'Listen for her breathing,'\_ Jared instructed, '\_It's hard to catch a clear scent with the rain.'\_

\_'Okay,'\_ Quil thought back. He came to a stop, his massive paw crushing a pine cone. He closed his eyes. It wasn't necessary, but it helped him concentrate. Not three seconds later, he opened his eyes and looked at Jared, nodding once, '\_Got it! Guys, we found Elizabeth.'\_

\_'Beth?'\_ came Leah's frantic thoughts. Her muddled thought process seemed to have calmed down at the mention of her little sister, '\_Beth? Where is she? Is she hurt? Quil, if you can hear me I swear to go-\_

\_'Shut \_\_\*\*up\*\*\_\_, Leah,\_'\_ Jared growled, his eyes narrowing, '\_We'll take care of it. Just try to focus on phasing back. Quil, we can track Beth's scent on foot. We don't wanna scare her.'\_

Quil nodded his large head and closed his eyes again. Phasing back was always a struggle. It got easier overtime, but he had to focus and it was hard with all the frenzied thoughts from other people in his head. Leaning back on his hind legs, he could feel his bones

shift and his body shorten. He shook himself off, standing on two feet once more.

He pulled on a pair of khaki shorts that he kept strapped to his ankle and turned to Jared who had already phased back, "Do you hear it?"

"Yeah," Jared said gruffly, "C'mon. We have to hurry."

Quil followed after Jared, easily trekking throughout the forest. It wasn't difficult going through the tress. They knew the woods better than the backs of their own hands.

Elizabeth's eyes were squeezed shut when they happened upon her, her chest heaving as she struggled to breathe. She was shaking and soaked from head to toe, no doubt from the pouring rain. Leaves, pine needles, and dirt spotted her clothes and tangled her long hair.

"Beth," Jared fell to his knees beside the girl, his eyes frantic. He pressed two thick fingers to her neck and then her wrist. Her pulse was racing. He cupped her cheek, trying to peer into her face, "Hey, can you hear me?"

Quil moved the curtain of black hair from her face and sucked in a sharp breath. Even in the dark, he could see the bluish tint to her lips, "Shit! See if you can find her inhaler."

"Sit her up," Jared demanded. He patted Elizabeth's pockets, "There has to beâ€"found it!"

"Beth, hey," Quil gently tapped her face and spoke slowly. He pulled her so that her back was resting against his broad chest and he supported her easily with one arm, using his free hand to interlace their fingers. He hoped that his unnatural body heat would warm her up, "Elizabeth, hey, It's Quil and Jared. We're here. It's going to be all right. We've got you. You're safe, now."

Jared waited for her to breathe out before he placed the inhaler between her lips. He tried his best not to panic as he spoke, pressing down on the small canister of medicine, "Breathe, Beth. Come on, I need you to breathe," he breathed in with her and breathed out, hoping it would calm him down as well, "Good, okay. One more time."

Quil adjusted her position, "Beth, squeeze my hand if you can hear me."

"Anything?" Jared asked, checking Beth's pulse again. He placed her inhaler in the pocket of his shorts, "Did she squeeze back?"

"No," Quil frowned and shook his head, "Nothing."

"She's in shock," Jared mumbled, pulling one of Elizabeth's eyelids down, "Though I'm not surprised."

Quil pursed his lips. He wasn't surprised, either, but he was still worried, "We need to get her out of these clothes. She soaked."

"I know," Jared said, "Here, let me carry her," he pulled Elizabeth

into his arms as if she weighed nothing, "We'll get her to Emily'sâ€"get her dried off and warmed up."

"Shouldn't we take her back to her own house?" Quil suggested, climbing to his feet, "Afterâ€|?"

"No," Jared shook her head, "From their thoughts, it seems like Leah and Seth destroyed a lot of stuff. We have to go. Beth's breathing is still off and she might need a doctor. Why don't you phase and see if the others are available? Tell them we're taking Beth back to Emily's."

Quil rolled his eyes, but nodded and took off in the other direction, removing his shorts in the process.

Jared jogged easily through the trees, being careful not to jostle Elizabeth too much. Much like the rest of the pack, he didn't understand why Leah and Seth had both phased, but Beth hadn't. It didn't make any sense to him, but then again nothing really made sense right now. In all the legends that he had been told since he was born, girls phasing had never been mentioned.

"We're almost there, Beth," Jared mumbled to her, briefly turning his head when he heard footsteps behind him.

"I caught Embry," Quil said, looking over at Beth, "He wasn't any help, of course. Everyone's busy, but they know that Beth is safe."

"Dammit," Jared cursed. He sighed heavily, "Okay, then. I guess we'll just have to focus on getting her dry and to a hospital. Which one is Harry at?"

"Forks General," Quil practically growled, "Sue needed to get Harry help and since the Cullens are gone..." he trailed off.

"Still," Jared mumbled as he jogged down the dirt path that led to Emily's small house. They had made it there in record time as Sue's wasn't too far from the small house, "Get the door."

"Yeah," Quil ran ahead.

"We're here, Beth," Jared said, shifting her as he walked through the door, "Ya' hear me? It's going to be okay. You're okay."

It was toasty warm inside Emily's house. All the lights were still on and Jared propped Elizabeth on the couch, making sure to keep her upright so that she could breathe.

"If you guys want, you can step out for a minute," Emily came from her room at the back of the house, a bundle of clothes in her hands, "I can take it from here."

Jared's eyes widened at the sight of Emily and he took in her tearful appearance, "Hey. What are you doing here?"

"I've been here for awhile," Emily sniffled, "Sue was practically bouncing off the walls with worry and I told her I'd come back and make sure Elizabeth was all right."

"She's not," Jared told her, pulling off Elizabeth's shoes and then her socks, "We need to get her to a doctor."

"We will," Emily promised, "Let me dress her first. Quil, can you get me that blanket?"

"Here," Quil handed it to her, "Beth's lips aren't as blue as they were before. That has to be good, right?"

Emily nodded and gestured for the guys to turn around. Once they had, she tugged off Elizabeth sweatshirt, leaving the girl clad in only her bra, "Honey, can you hear me? Elizabeth, it's Emily. Beth?"

Elizabeth still didn't respond, but her eyes were no longer blank; like they had been. She was shaking and it was obvious that she was trying not to get worked up.

"She's been like that since we found her," Jared said, "Won't respond."

"At all?" Emily asked.

"Nah," Quil shook his head, "Nothing. We figured she's in shock."

"Most likely, but maybe talking will help," she pulled off Elizabeth's leggings, "Don't worry, Beth. I know you're cold, but you'll warm up soon."

"She's still struggling to breathe," Jared muttered, focusing on a spot on the wall. He could hear her pulse and the ragged breaths that fell from her chapped lips.

"I know," Emily said. She sniffled again, blinking back tears, "We'll get her help, don't worry. Jared, is your truck still here?" she smoothed out the warm, dry clothing that she had dressed Elizabeth in, "There, that should help."

"Yeah," Jared nodded towards the door, "S'out front. Want me to warm it up?"

Emily nodded, "Please? Quil, can you carry Beth? Sit with her in the truck?"

"Yeah, I got her," Quil said confidently. He paused, looking up at Emily, "Hey, um...how is he?"

Emily blanched and shook her head, "It's not looking good."

Quil said nothing as he hoisted Elizabeth into his arms, muttering an apology when she whimpered.

"Do you know when she started having an attack?" Emily asked, brushing back Elizabeth's hair again.

"No," Quil shook his head, "We just found her like that. She was able to take her inhaler, though."

"Good," Emily's breathed out a sigh of relief, "That's a good sign,

then."

With that said, the pair ventured back outside towards Jared's truck, shutting the lights off behind them.

\* \* \*

><p>"I'm not going to tell her."<p>

Sam looked at Sue curiously. He was leaning against a wall of the Forks General waiting room, his arms folded over his broad chest. He had gotten word that a Cullen had come back and then left again, but that didn't ease any of his anxieties about being on Cullen territory.

"What do you mean?" Billy rubbed Sue's knee.

"Elizabeth," Sue's voice cracked and she pressed a hand to her mouth for a moment, "I-I'm not going to tell her about Leah and Sethâ€"that the legends are true."

"She already saw," Sam pointed out.

"The medicine that they give her makes her really...off," Sue started, still not looking at anyone, "It will be easy-

"Sue," Billy cut off gently. His usual piercing black eyes were soft with concern, "Are you sure that's a good idea?"

"Once I tell her about-" Sue cut herself off with a sniffle and she dragged a thumb under her eye, "It will be too much for her to bear."

Billy sighed and patted Sue's hand, "If you think that is best for Elizabeth, then we will keep her in the dark."

Sam pursed his lips in obvious displeasure, "And you're not concerned about whether or not she'll phase?"

"Of course I am," Sue snapped, lowering her voice when people looked over, "Especially now that I know it's possible. And if she turns, then I will not hesitate to contact you. She will help protect the Tribe and she'll have her brother and her sister to help guide her."

Sam nodded. He didn't like the idea, but ultimately, it was Sue's decision on whether or not to tell Elizabeth about the Tribe's secrets.

"How are they?" Sue asked, "Did someone tell them about-" she cut herself off with a sob and nestled her head on Billy's shoulder. Her heart clenched. She couldn't say it.

"Yeah," Sam said hoarsely. He cleared his throat, "Embry told them. He, Jacob, and Paul are with them now."

Sam sighed. It had taken awhile, but he had finally gotten hold of Jacob. The rightful Alpha went on and on about how Bella had left him to go rescue Edward with the pixie-vampire, but Sam had immediately cut him off. He wasn't in the mood to hear it. The pack had needed



himâ€”his family had needed him and Jake hadn't been there. Jake was definitely going to be on Seth and Leah duty for awhile. The pack was not happy.

"Ms. Clearwater?" a doctor approached them, a forced smile on his face.

Sue sucked in a sharp breath. The sudden change from Mrs. to Ms. almost gave her whiplash and it would definitely take some time to get used to.

"How is Beth doing?" Sam asked, seeing Sue unable to speak, "Is she awake?"

"...Yes," the doctor said hesitantly, eying Sam, "She's off of the nebulizer, now and is breathing well on her own. She's a little disoriented, but you may visit her if you wish and I'll get her discharge paperwork set up, all right?"

"Thank you," Billy managed a shaky smile and turned to Sue, "Would you like us to come with you?"

Sue took a deep breath and nodded, moving her glassy eyes to look at Sam apologetically.

"I understand," Sam told her, "I'll wait out here, but just so that you are aware, the pack will be keeping a close eye on Beth from now on."

"Okay. Thank you," Sue whispered, standing and grabbing the handles of Billy's wheelchair. She pushed him down the white hallway and into Elizabeth's equally white room.

Elizabeth was sitting up, her face flushed and her hair pulled into a messy bun atop her head. She was mindlessly flicking through the TV channels, a bottle of apple juice resting on a tray beside her. Bags had formed under her eyes and she looked a little pale.

"Hey, sweetheart," Sue greeted quietly as she approached.

"Mom," Elizabeth's voice was raspy, but relieved and she perked up at the sight of her mother, switching off the TV, "Where'sâ€”oh! Hi, Billy."

"Hello, Elizabeth," Billy reached over and held her hand, rubbing the pad of his thumb over the back of it, "How are you feeling?"

"Better," Elizabeth muttered. She looked at Sue, "But they want to change my medication. My asthma's getting worse, I guess."

Sue frowned. She didn't trust the doctors of Forks General, "Really? Did they call Dr. Adsila?"

Elizabeth nodded.

"Okay. We'll talk to the doctor and get it figured out," Sue promised. She bit her own lip, "You had a really bad asthma attack after you got home from the beach."

Billy exhaled softly, but said nothing. He didn't approve of this, not at all, but it wasn't his place. Whether it was due to Elizabeth finally phasing or something else, eventually, the middle Clearwater would figure out the secret and he knew that she wouldn't be happy about everyone hiding it from her. Things leading up to her finding out wouldn't be much better. Especially, since Leah and Seth would now have to keep their distance.

Sue took in a shaky breath. It was better just to get it over with. She made eye contact with her daughter and blinked, a few tears slipping down her face, "Baby, your father had a heart attack and...h-he didn't ma-make it."

Elizabeth blinked a few times, startled. Her eyes became impossibly wide and she shook her head, "W-wait, I don'tâ€"what?"

Sue looked away, trying to keep herself from falling apart, "H-He just-

"He had a weak heart, honey," Billy said gently, tears clouding his own vision, "But the doctors reassured us that he went pea-

"Don't," Elizabeth interrupted. Her voice cracked and she bit her lip hard enough to draw blood, "Please, don't."

Billy nodded and fell silent. The grip on his hand tightened and he squeezed back.

"Don't forget to breathe," Sue reminded quietly.

"I know," Elizabeth choked out, her voice nothing more than a broken whisper, "Lee?"

"Leah and Seth are at Emily's," Sue said, finally turning back to look at her daughter, "They wanted to wait for you to wake up, but I told them to go and get some rest."

"Oh..." Elizabeth bit her trembling bottom lip. She didn't know if she was shaking because of the medication she had been given or because of the numbness she felt. Regardless, it made her want to claw her eyes out, "But I thought..."

"What?" Sue asked.

Elizabeth drew her eyebrows together and shook her head, "Nothing. It was a dream from the medication, I guess. About the legends."

"That stuff does make you pretty loopy," Sue agreed. She frowned, concerned about the lack of emotion Elizabeth was showing towards her father's death, "Honey-

"When can we go home?" Elizabeth interrupted, "I want to go home."

Sue's eyes widened. With everything going on, the state of her home had completely slipped her mind.

"Soon," Billy promised, "The doctor was putting together your discharge paperwork when we came in."

"Okay," Elizabeth mumbled, playing with a thread on the hospital blanket.

Sue's frown only deepened. She wondered if her daughter hadn't heard what she had said about Harry. She had seen first hand what Elizabeth was like when she came off of the meds they would give her at the hospital and maybe Sue should have waited to deliver the news.

Practically everyone on the reservation knew how close Elizabeth was to her father. She was the perfect definition of a 'Daddy's Girl' even when she went through her teenager phase, she would never scoff or roll her eyes at Harry and he rarely got cross with Elizabeth. They were like two peas in a pod and Elizabeth would even go fishing if he asked, despite her hatred for it. Elizabeth loved Harry more than anything and anyone in the world.

So, the lack of tears from Elizabeth, or even the slightest glint of sadness, disturbed Sue.

A sudden knock on the outside wall caused Sue to jump and she whipped her head around to see the same doctor who had approached her in the waiting room, standing there with a clipboard clutched in his hands.

"Hello," he greeted with another false smile, "May I come in?"

"Yes," Sue answered.

"How are you feeling, Elizabeth?" he asked, pressing two fingers to her wrist.

"Better," Elizabeth mumbled, her voice quiet.

"Beth said something about her asthma getting worse?" Sue asked worriedly, "Is this true?"

The doctor looked over his clipboard, his lips pursed, "It seems as though the medication for her inhaler isn't helping as much as Dr. Adsila thought it would. We're going to switch her to a combination inhaler—a mix of anti-inflammatory steroids and drugs to open up her airways, see if that'll help. And I would like her to start using a peak flow meter to help measure how fast air is coming out of her lungs. Once in the morning and again at night, the same time."

Sue blinked a few times, taking a moment to let all the information sink in, "And that will help?"

"Yes," the doctor nodded, handing Sue a paper with Elizabeth's prescription, "It will take a couple of weeks to really notice a difference, but it should help. If not, come back and we'll run some more tests."

"Will this help her coughing attacks?" Sue asked, looking up from the piece of paper.

"Yes," the doctor nodded, "How bad are these attacks?"

"They've made her throw up," Sue said seeing Elizabeth wasn't going

to answer, "She gets those more than her asthma attacks."

The doctor jotted something down, "Do they trigger an asthma attack?"

"Occasionally," Sue answered. She sighed and massaged her temples. She was exhausted.

"Okay," the doctor mumbled, "Yes, the new medication should help that as well."

"Okay," Sue nodded, "Can we take her home?"

"Yes," the doctor nodded and gestured behind him, "Her clothes are on that chair and make sure she gets plenty of rest and takes care of herself."

"Of course," Sue nodded, "Thank you."

"You're welcome, Ms. Clearwater and I'm sorry for your loss."

Sue flinched, her lips becoming a thin line.

"Thank you," Billy said, reaching out to shake the doctors hand.

"So, we can go now?" Elizabeth asked impatiently.

Sue moved her hand to stroke Elizabeth's hair, "Yes, sweetheart. Get dressed and Sam will take us home."

Elizabeth frowned, taken aback, "Sam? Sam \_Uley\_? Why is \_he\_ here?"

"He and your father were close," Sue told her, "You knew that."

"Oh," Elizabeth's frowned deepened, "Right, yeah."

"Baby, I'm so sorry," Sue whispered, her voice wavering, "It will get better, I promise."

Elizabeth nodded slowly, "Can I get dressed, now?"

"Mhm," Sue leaned forward and kissed Elizabeth's forehead, "Do you need help?"

"I think I've got it," Elizabeth couldn't even force a smile, "Thanks, though. Thanks, Billy."

"You're welcome," Billy squeezed her hand once more and released her, moving to take his breaks off, "We'll be waiting down the hall."

"K," Elizabeth mumbled.

"Finish that juice," Sue told her, "It will make you feel better."

Elizabeth nodded, her hands clutching the rough hospital blanket. As

soon as her mother and Billy had left, she tossed it aside and leaned over to grab her clothes, proceeding to get dressed after she took off the green hospital gown.

Everything that had happened after getting back from the beach was a blur. She remembered Leah and her mother fighting and then her father had collapsed. There had been screaming. A lot of screaming. Then, she had woken up in the hospital.

"Mom?" she called quietly when she was finished.

Sue pushed back the blue curtain that acted as the room divider and managed a sheepish smile, "How did you know I was still there?"

"You always are," Elizabeth mumbled. She held out her hand, "Help?"

Sue rushed to her daughter's side and grabbed her hand, helping her off of the bed. She caught Elizabeth under the armpits just as her legs gave out, "Elizabeth!"

"I'm fine, mom," Elizabeth moved her hand to rest on the hospital tray, "I'm fine."

Sue nodded, but kept a firm hand on her daughter's shoulder, "Honey-

"Can we just go home?" Elizabeth begged, her eyes glued to the floor, "Please? I'm tired."

"Okay..." Sue nodded and held her arms out as Elizabeth began to walk, "Careful, Beth."

Elizabeth felt like a baby giraffe as she staggered around the hospital room. She kept her hand on her mother's shoulder and the other held out beside her for balance.

"How are you feeling?" Sue asked.

"Fine," Elizabeth mumbled.

Sue sighed, "Remember, Sam's taking us home. He's been a really great help, tonight. So, please...be nice."

At the moment, Elizabeth didn't really care if Sam was driving or if they were hitch hiking. Just as long as they got there.

"Elizabeth," Sam greeted, "It's good to see you up. You feeling okay?"

Elizabeth stared at him for a moment, unsure of how to react. She didn't necessarily hate Sam, but she wasn't fond of him. He had completely broke Leah's heart in favor of dating her cousin of all people! Leah had fallen apart and was totally distraught. Because of Sam and Emily's new relationship, their relationship with the Clearwater children had become strained and awkward.

"She's doing a lot better," Sue said, placing a hand on Elizabeth's shoulder, "But she's tired and ready to go home. Aren't you, Beth?"

"Uh-huh," Elizabeth nodded, moving her eyes to the floor.

"I'll pick up your new prescription, tomorrow," Sue promised as Sam led them out of the hospital.

Elizabeth nodded, "I want Leah. Will she be at home?"

"No," Sam answered.

"I wasn't talking to you!" Elizabeth snapped, clenching her fists.

Everyone stopped and Sam, who had been getting ready to open the backdoor to his car, looked at Elizabeth completely appalled. He took in the anger in her eyes and the shaking of her hands. He wanted to press a hand to her forehead and check her temperature, but resisted the urge.

"It's all right," Sue soothed, rubbing Elizabeth's shoulder, her eyes wide, "Calm down. Honey, it's fine."

Billy pursed his lips, watching as Sue continued to calm Elizabeth and help her into the car. Oh, yes. He would definitely make sure that Elizabeth was under close watch.

End  
file.